

Things in General.

We notice that the Charlotte Democrat is out in favour of a charter for a road from Greensboro' to Danville, so as to finish the section of the State, and leave it bleeding at both arms to the manifest loss of the State Treasury, the depreciation of State property in other lines, and what is more still, the violation of implied State faith. In 1848-9, the Charlotte and Danville Railroad project was brought before the Legislature of the State, by Mr. Ellis of Rowan, we believe—at any rate, it was insisted upon by the people of the west and centre, and central-west, that the State was either bound to furnish them with an outlet to market, or give them a charter to make this for themselves. In that Legislature, the justice of this claim was admitted. It was contended that the State could not charter this Danville Route, without striking a deadly blow at all hope of building up in future a truly North Carolina system of Internal Improvements.—To meet this demand of the West, and at the same time avoid the evils of the Danville route, many projects were brought forward, the result of them all being what is now known as the North Carolina Road. The expense which the State went to was from broad notions of State policy. It was to obviate the necessity of the Danville connection, and so understood. It was never contemplated that, at some future day, the money which the State had spent to obviate the necessity of this road, would become tributary to it, or the one-half of the work constructed with that money become a mere link in the chain to bind us in subjection to our neighbors, while the other half would be virtually sacrificed by that operation. Not at all—not at all. It will not be done either while a due recollection of the true state of the case remains.

We don't think D. F. Caldwell's Bank Bill will pass. It ought not to pass. We say this in spite of the majority of two on its second reading. The Central Railroad has too much power now in the State. It picks its finger into everybody's pie. At any rate, every Internal Improvement bill that comes up must be subjected to this test—how will it affect the Central Rail Road and its Stockholders. We say that we do not want to see a bank monopoly created under any name, the effect of which will be to deliver the dear people over, both hand and foot, and chained to the service of this affair.

There would appear also, to be a strong feeling of opposition to the re-charter of the State Bank, and it is very doubtful whether that bill will go through.—We think that it will not. What will be done in the currency law we can hardly say. There is a determination apparent on the part of the Legislature to dictate terms to the corporations—not to allow corporations to dictate terms to it.

The state of the weather to the Northward leaves us measurably without exchanges from that section, as indeed we would have been to some extent, no matter how regular the mails had been. Up on the whole the news, when it does reach us is comparatively unimportant. Congress is doing nothing just now we presume, owing to the "Christmas truce," although the Washington Union contends that it is a great mistake to suppose that because some days in regular session have been consumed in speech making over the President's message, the business of the country has been neglected. The different committees have been busily engaged maturing business.—The Committee of Ways and Means is ready to report the necessary appropriation bills, and the other committees have made more than usual progress with the matters entrusted to them. Mr. Winslow, we see has introduced the proper resolutions of enquiry with regard to having the Fayetteville Arsenal made one of construction. The position of Fayetteville in a healthy and moral section of country—its distance from any point of attack or easy access to an enemy—its proximity to large deposits of coal and iron and all strong arguments in favour of carrying out the original design of making it an arsenal of construction. We trust that the effort to do so may be successful.

There is a pause in the business of our State Legislature, and we take it for granted that little of a public character will be transacted before the 1st of January. Upon the whole, we think it only right that there should be a virtual recess at this time. To many of the members, a few days' attention to their own business is a matter of imperative necessity, and an opportunity will be afforded the Representatives of the people to mix with their constituents, and more fully ascertain their wants and consult their wishes.

In another column will be found a letter from our Raleigh Correspondent, giving some speculations upon matters and things—given for what they are worth, which is at least as much as any others we have seen.

During the Session we have been indebted for courtesies to our own county members—to Mr. Houston of Duplin—to the "Reporter of the Standard"—to Mr. Cantwell, and to other gentlemen, all of whom may rest assured that their favours are duly appreciated. We may be mistaken, but it appears to us more than probable that the Session will be prolonged pretty late into February—short or long, the public business and its careful and deliberate transaction is the main thing, and no desire to hurry through with things ought to be allowed to deprive that of all the time and care necessary for its satisfactory arrangement.

As we have heard a great deal about the power of deception, but we think the instance we find in a paragraph going the rounds of the papers rather caps the climax. Two Pennsylvania Dutchmen were talking doubtfully over "yankee tricks," the great terror of the farmers of the interior of that steady going old State; the wooden hank trick came to be discussed, and one told the other how he had been "sold" in that line—completely taken in, the thing was so well gotten up. "Ah," said Hans in reply, "dat ish nottin. A tum rascal sold me a dozen hanks sewed in pags, and may I pe tant if I didn't eat eight of 'em before I found out they were made of wood."

If anybody could have been fixed up better than that we should like to know it.

DEATH OF FATHER MATTHEW.—Among the items by the Canada, we notice the announcement of the death of Father Matthew the well known "Apostle of Temperance," who, at one time, had brought three-fourths of the Irish people into the Temperance fold. Although many backslided, yet more permanent good was done. Neither here nor in Europe is the cause of pledged temperance so far advanced as it was some years ago, but neither is the public opinion of any country so tolerant of actual and public intoxication which has thus become much more rare, and less obtrusive. Father Matthew was between sixty and sixty five years of age.

As we have from Mr. Whitaker, Harper for January, 1857—an average number, but not more. Its typography is excellent—its literature rather below mediocrity. The "Animal Declaration of Independence" is rather childish in the picture line. The others are better, and the Magazine well worth a quarter.

A young lady at the North refuses to wear shoes, because they have eyes.

Thursday was a very quiet Christmas—at least so everybody said—but everybody always says so. The John Kuners are absolute ideas. The Great Moguls and Don Quixotes have taken the wind out of poor John's sails.

The day was very pleasant and people went to and fro, and remarked to each other, that it was a very dull Christmas—that is the people who had arrived at or passed middle life. The "young 'uns" were all alive, and going it with a rush.

We have not heard of any untoward accidents yesterday—we trust that we may not hear of any.—Several people smote Billy Patterson, but Billy smote them back again fully as hard, so that account is squared. Billy is a hard old case.

We notice our friend and Commoner, S. A. Holmes, Esq., down from Raleigh for the holidays. Mr. Holmes looks well, and has done good service in the Legislature, being prompt, industrious, and attentive to the interests of his constituents and the State.—Our worthy Senator, Mr. Fennell, is at home, we believe, at his residence in the upper portion of the county. Dr. Tate, we believe, will spend the holidays in Norfolk. We should like to see the Doctor. We see Messrs. Gilliam and Stubbs, both from the eastern part of the State, down here; we trust they will have a pleasant time.

"THE THUNDERBOLT," is the title of a new paper proposed to be published in Raleigh by Messrs. Williamson, Finch & Co. It is to be devoted to everything (except politics and religion) and particularly to inerrancy. And is to be issued tri-monthly, at one dollar a year. Success to the enterprise.

THE COAST SURVEY.—It appears from the report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey that the survey has been carried on during the year in all the States and Territories of the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific ocean, that half the distance from the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Prof. Bahe estimates that from ten to twelve years will find the field works essentially completed in all the sections but the two recently begun.

A general hydrographic reconnaissance has been made of the coast of California and Oregon. Every harbor has been surveyed, and a considerable portion of the Washington Territory. The report is voluminous, and contains much valuable information concerning the navigation interest in all portions of the country.

BURNING OF THE STEAMER KNOXVILLE.—NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The steamer Knoxville, of the Savannah line, which caught fire at her look at this port last night was entirely destroyed. The loss is about \$200,000, half of which is insured.—The other steamers near her were in great danger but were saved.

Two New Post Offices have been established on the route between Clinton and Elizabethtown. Warrens, in Sampson—Buck, P. M. Kaneville in Bladen—Kane, P. M. This mail leaves Elizabethtown on Tuesday morning, arrives at Clinton the same evening, and leaves Clinton Wednesday morning, arrives at Elizabethtown the same evening.—Clinton Independent.

MR. WASHBURN'S "TREET."—In the course of Mr. Washburn's speech upon the President's message, he was interrogated by Mr. Smith, of Virginia, to know if a new State should apply for admission into the Union with a Constitution asking the right to form her own institutions, if she would have its vote.

Mr. Washburn, "When that question comes up, I shall meet it, and vote as circumstances guide me." To this simple question Mr. W. had no direct reply to make. A great "Republican" party has been formed upon this plain, practical issue; a great "Republican" convention has been held to answer the question; a great "Republican" platform has been put forth to proclaim the principles of the party upon the subject; a great battle has been fought in behalf, as was supposed, of those principles; and now, after all this, Hon. Israel Washburn, of Maine, a champion of this party, on the floor of Congress announces to his constituents and the country, "When the question comes up, I shall vote as circumstances guide me." "Circumstances," not principles, are to be his guide in voting.

Verily, this "Republican" party has fought wonderfully hard to establish this great doctrine of "circumstances." In the inquiry of Mr. Smith the "circumstances" were stated, viz: a State applying "with a constitution asking the right to form her own institutions." As to how these "circumstances" would guide him, Mr. W. dodged a reply. This "circumstance" his constituents will doubtless note for their future guidance.—South side Democrat.

A SENSIBLE FOREIGNER.—The Illustrated Times of London has the following judicious remarks upon the Presidential election:

Mr. Buchanan's triumph represents certain principles and facts which are well worth considering.—He is a man of high intelligence, and his position, experience and accomplishment, as well as his private life, he is eminently respectable. From the regular statesman-like point of view, he is a better choice than Fremont, whose antecedents are not so political, and whose faculties are not comparable at all. So far, then, we may be satisfied at the outset with our country's choice. Indeed, a man of letters of his rank and feeling is a high grade of man, and three hundred years after George Buchanan wrote the famous treatise (the "De Jure Regni" &c.) which almost inaugurated classical liberalism in Europe, a member of the same clan should be chosen head of the Great Republic. He has had his fluctuations of "principle," no doubt, but, as time change, men may change, and after all where is the consistency of most of our magnates at home?

Mr. Buchanan, American nationality triumpht. He may be violent and unscrupulous at times, but he represents America after all. In him the Union triumphs; South and North remain together (in a wrong order, perhaps, but together) the aspirations of the energetic section of the party are embodied in him. We are safer with such a man—knowing that office will keep him steady—than we should have been had the success of Fremont introduced new elements into American government, and set North and South by the ears about slavery. The great black difficulty is postponed.

THE GREAT NORTHWEST.—According to present appearances, (says the Cincinnati Enquirer,) the representation of the Northwest House of Representatives may be set down about as follows, provided there is no material increase of the ratio.

Ohio.....23
Indiana.....15
Illinois.....18
Michigan.....8
Iowa.....7
Wisconsin.....7
Total.....78

In the present Congress there are but fifty members. The prospects are that the six northwestern States will have about one-third of the whole number of representatives in the Union, and also of the electoral votes. They will probably exceed in political power the great State of N. York and New England.

A NEW SUIT IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, Resulting in a Verdict of Matrimony.

A blooming widow of 25 years had presented a gay Lothario with a pledge of her affections in the shape of a rosy cheeked boy, and being anxious that he should nurture and support the promising babe, she applied yesterday to His Honor, the Mayor, for a warrant to arrest the naughty swain, prepared to do the delicate but necessary duty of chiding him with its parentage. Before the issue of the warrant, however, the gallant father came forward in a manly, sailor-like manner, and with becoming diffidence hinted to the Mayor his willingness to save the coo of further proceedings by taking the fair widow for his wedded wife. He stepped into the Clerk's office, obtained a marriage license, and sent for a minister, who arrived in due time, and united the now happy couple in the holy bonds of matrimony. After the ceremony an error was discovered in the license, which was corrected, and the marriage took place de novo. Some of the attendants in the Mayor's office officiated as bridesmen, and were rewarded with a kiss from the bride.—Norfolk Argus.

From our Raleigh Correspondent.

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

RALEIGH, Dec. 23, 1856.

SENATE.—Mr. W. H. Thomas moved a proposition to be sent to the House, that when the House adjourn to-day it would be until Saturday next, which motion was laid on the table; yes 16, nays 14.

Mr. Wilder from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported unfavorably on the bill vesting in *feme covert* their right in Slave Property.

Mr. Gorrell from the Committee on Internal Improvements, reported favorably on the bill incorporating the Deep Gap and Stone Mountain Road Company.

Mr. Dockery from the Committee on Banks and Currency, reported against the bill chartering the Bank of Lincoln, and Mr. Cameron against the bill chartering the Bank of Goldsboro'.

Mr. W. H. Thomas offered a resolution that when there happened to be no quorum of the Senate the members in attendance receive no pay for that day. The Speaker then adjourned the Senate until the next day. Mr. Thomas appealed from the decision of the Chair, but afterwards withdrew it and offered a bill to regulate the pay of members of the General Assembly; this bill embodies the resolution offered before; no quorum, no per diem. Mr. Thomas moved the bill be taken into consideration to-day. Mr. Hill moved to refer it to the Committee on Finance. After some debate between Messrs. Hill and Thomas, Mr. Wiggins moved to lay the bill on the table, which was adopted.

Mr. Wilder introduced a resolution authorizing W. D. Cooke to place his new map "under the patronage and sanction of the State."

The Senate then adjourned the town of Warrens. The House of Commons.—The House presented a slim attendance of members and little business of public importance was transacted. A few private resolutions were read, and the bill to emancipate Jerry, a slave, was rejected.

The Speaker announced his intention of being absent for a few days, and appointed Mr. Settle to preside during his absence.

The House adjourned at an early hour.

RALEIGH, December 21, 1856.

SENATE.—The Senate met and adjourned, which may be recorded as the probable amount of business likely to be transacted until the 1st of January, when the inauguration of His Excellency Governor Graham will take place.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Mr. D. F. Caldwell introduced a bill to charter the Guilford Agricultural Society, read the first time.

Mr. Badham read a section of the Revised Code, which renders an application to the Legislature unnecessary.

Mr. F. Caldwell wished a larger capital than that allowed by the general act of incorporation.

Mr. Hargrove introduced a bill to prohibit County Courts granting licences to free negroes to carry arms, read the first time.

Mr. Dargan made some remarks in opposition to the bill when it was laid on the table.

Mr. Clark introduced a resolution in favor of York College Institute, read the first time.

On motion of Mr. Baxter, the rules were suspended, and the bill to amend the Charter of the Little River Furmpike Company, passed its second and third readings.

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permission to occupy the Territory of Moganis is confirmed.

It was reported at St. Petersburg that fifty thousand Russian troops were ready to march to the frontier of Persia on the first invitation of the Shah.

Important and Useful Statement.

The following statement, by the Comptroller, of the valuation of lands, the taxes paid thereon, and on polls, and also setting forth the various subjects of taxation, and the amount received from each, will be found useful and interesting. It will be observed, among other things, that "Marriage licenses" pay \$1,050.75, any at that marriage and death of trust pay only \$1,200. It is not good policy, it seems to us, to tax marriage licenses; and we trust that this section of the revenue law will be repealed.—The amount lost by such repeal can be made up and even quadrupled by an increased tax on deeds of trust, many of which are unjust and fraudulent. Deeds of trust alone might be taxed as to yield to the State from five to ten thousand dollars per annum.—Raleigh Standard.

COMPTROLLER'S DEPARTMENT.

December 11, 1856.

Hon. W. W. Avery, Speaker of the Senate:

SIR: In obedience to a resolution of the Senate, requesting the Comptroller to report to the Senate, as far as practicable, the aggregate valuation of the lands of the State under the last assessments, with the tax paid thereon; also the number of polls and amount of tax on same, and a tabular statement setting forth under each head the various subjects of taxation, and the amounts received from each, I have the honor to submit the following:

Valuation of Land.....	\$57,306,641.08
Valuation of town property.....	12,493,984.00
Aggregate valuation.....	\$69,790,625.08
Number of taxable polls (assessments deducted).....	211,244.00
Aggregate gross tax on land, at 12 cents per acre.....	105,168.87
Town property, do.....	15,000.00
Polls, at 40 cents.....	84,517.67
Dividends and profits in stocks, do.....	4,333.15
Salaries, fees and incomes, at \$5 and upwards.....	5,000.00
Mortgages, do, at \$1.....	1,543.50
Stud Horses and Jacks, at \$5 or over, as price per horse.....	3,847.25
Marriage Licenses, at \$1.....	1,281.27
Toll Gates at \$10, Gates on Highways at \$5, and Ferries at five times the toll.....	1,090.75
Pistols and Bowie Knives, at \$1.....	607.66
Dirks and Swords, at \$1.....	1,819.00
Silver, do, at 25 cents.....	6,912.25
Harps, at \$2.....	2,145.75
Plates, at \$1.....	1,924.00
Value of Gold and Silver Plate, and ornamental Jewelry, at one per cent.....	1,125.15
Capital in negro and other lands, at 12 cents per acre.....	371.25
Pleading Carriages, at 50 cents per \$4.....	15,058.89
Capital in Merchandise, at 5 per cent.....	33,851.21
Capital in Liquor, at 5 per cent.....	14,504.14
Pedlar's License, at \$20.....	2,725.62
Retailer's, at \$20.....	7,924.96
Taverns, luns, &c, at \$10.....	1,920.00
Rolling Mills, at \$25.....	1,350.00
Carriage Stables, at \$10.....	180.00
Brokers, at \$100.....	1,270.00
Amount of sales by Auctioneers, at 1/2 of 1 per cent.....	12.89
Commission of Commission Merchants, at 1 per cent.....	39.26
Express Companies, at \$200.....	1,200.00
Insurance Companies, at \$.....	1,000.00
Agencies of Banks, at \$500.....	8,370.00
Presses, Exhibitions, &c, for reward.....	538.93
Turpentine Distilleries.....	1,092.84
Capital in negro and other lands, at 12 cents per acre.....	2,103.84
Billiard Tables at \$100.....	1,250.00
Privileged Voters, at 40 cents.....	316.69
Rolling Mills, at \$25.....	1,350.00
By District and Forfeiture.....	1,434.41
Sundries, and arrears for preceding year.....	1,318.43
Support of Deaf and Dumb and Blind Pupils.....	343.89
	\$380,437.49

With respect, &c.
GEO. W. BROOKS,
Comptroller.

Tom Marshall on J. C. Breckinridge and Garrett Davis.

The celebrated "Tom Marshall" has been edifying the Kentucky Supreme Court with one of his happiest hits. It was in a case on which the Vice President elect, Mr. Breckinridge, and Garrett Davis, were opposing counsel. Mr. Marshall's clients had been doing the "old-fashioned" thing, and upon his fish pond. Major Breckinridge contended that the correction was a wholesome and proper one, such as he had been subjected to in his juvenile days, when caught in any mischief. Tom Marshall, in reply, said that both gentlemen had endeavored to magnify him into a great man—Kentucky's greatest lawgiver and statesman, and both of them, in their political speeches, were in the habit of expressing great confidence in the sagacity and intelligence of the people. Now, he wished to be informed how it was that, with such great superiority of natural genius and acquirements, and with the additional advantage of years over at least one of his adversaries, he remained plain Tom Marshall, hampered by a miserable existence, of a few shillings a suit at the bar, while the other, pointing to his opponent, John C. Breckinridge, "who were but a two-headed shaver, robbing bird's nest and playing marbles, when the whole broad commonwealth of Kentucky was ringing from one end to the other with praises of the great eloquence, vast learning, and prodigious ability of Tom Marshall, are now Vice President of the United States?"

Garret Davis, wanted to be, and almost persuaded a very weak minded people to make you, President of the United States? "Now," proceeded Tom, "our Vice President says he used to be fogged in his boyhood days for just such tricks as my client's son was fogged for, and he leaves us to infer that, so far from being any damage thereby, it was one of the causes of his progress in life, and a precedent to his high position. If my client had only known this before, and if he could be satisfied that his son was spanked on the same spot from which my distinguished friend was, so far from bringing this suit, he would have acknowledged his profound gratitude to the defendant for placing his son in the line of safe precedent, and giving him so strong a claim on the Vice Presidency. Doubtless the political misfortunes and disasters of my other distinguished friend are attributable to the fact that, as his spanking was neglected in boyhood, he has to make up for it by receiving nothing but political spanks ever since he reached manhood. These palpable hits excited much laughter from the lawyers and judges, in which the two distinguished objects of Tom's rillery participated.

THE FULFILLMENT OF BRANNITT.—The Boston Transcript, touching on the Brannitt case, says the following model of epistolary brevity, all but the names: "Dear Father—I want \$100."

Your's, &c. SILAS LAMSON, JR.
The father encloses the \$100 bill, saying: "Dear Son—What for?"

Your's, &c. SILAS LAMSON, SR.
Clover "Guv'nor" that!

SALE OF SHORT HORNS.—The Lexington Observer has an account of sales of Durham cattle belonging to the estate of the late Benjamin Warfield, of Fayette, Kentucky. The herd was among the finest in the State, and the sale largely attended.

"Fourteen cows brought \$2,225—average price \$223.21. The highest price paid was \$455, by Dr. R. Breckinridge, for Lady Fairy, imported in 1850 by the Northern Kentucky Importing Company, and sold by them for \$1,000. Ten heifers brought \$2,855.50—average, \$285.50. Highest price paid, \$605, for Lady Fairy, 18, eighteen months old. Seven bulls brought \$1,510—average price, \$209. The highest price was \$650, for the imported Chilton. He cost in 1853 \$3,005."

ANGEL'S WIG.—Upon the death of a worthy bailie of Edinburgh his relatives resolved to erect a monument to his memory. They accordingly applied to a mason; and among other directions, desired that he would represent an angel bearing the bairie to heaven. The mason set to work and chiseled out an alarming likeness of the deceased worthy. On the head of the angel he carved a wig similar to the bailie's, which was the largest wig in the town council.

One of his relatives, on returning from London, went to inspect the subject of the sculpture. After musing some time over it he asked the mason whom the lower figure was intended for.

"O, that's the angel lifting our old friend up to heaven."

"The Angel" said the gentleman. "Who ever saw an angel wear a wig?"

"Did ye ever see one without a wig?" retorted the artist.

This was unanswerable, so the monument was erected, and may be seen on the north side of the churchyard of Grey Friars, to the wonder of all beholders.

[COMMUNICATED.]

COL. ALEXANDER MURCHISON.

President C. F. and D. R. Nav. Company.

DEAR SIR:—Some person kindly sent me a number of the Standard, containing a communication from you in reply to certain strictures in the Journal of this place, in which you represent me as having charged, as the Agent of the Stockholders in Wilmington, to Haywood "for the avowed purpose of ejecting from the Board a gentleman who is as much acquainted with the River as any man on it, for the reason he was supposed to be opposed to Mr. Douglas." Now, how could I arrive at such a conclusion? I can only infer from any acts of mine; for I voted for the gentleman referred to for a Director, of my own free will and accord, and without solicitation from any quarter; neither would anything which I said during my trip to, or stay at Haywood, on that occasion, warrant such an assertion as you make, for I spoke more freely to you than to any one else about the gentlemen.

You cannot have forgotten the circumstance, and I should hardly think the substance of my remarks, which were, that I had been informed that he was so opposed to Mr. Douglas that he had declared he would not serve on the Board of Directors if Douglas was retained in the Company's employ, and that if such was the case, I might be the necessary consequence of my being retained in the Wilmington Stockholders had more confidence in Mr. Douglas than in any person connected with the work, and that I should consider myself as instructed to defend and support him against attacks, come from what quarter they might; to which you replied it was an entire mistake, that he was very friendly towards Mr. Douglas. I expressed my gratification at learning that such was the case, as it relieved me from an embarrassing position, the nature of which you understood, but which had no reference to ejecting him from the Directory; on the contrary, though I did not say so, I thought and still think it would have been better for the Company if he had been chosen President in the outset.